

and lived it to the fullest, and his passing marks a tremendous loss for all of south Alabama. He will be deeply missed by many, most especially his wife of 60 years, Freida Gutlow Maisel; his three children, Kathy M. Bronstein, Elliot B. Maisel, and Ivan B. Maisel; his ten grandchildren; as well as countless friends he leaves behind.

Our thoughts and prayers are with them all at this difficult time.

HONORING THE LIFE OF U.S. CONGRESSMAN GEORGE SANGMEISTER

### HON. JERRY F. COSTELLO

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, October 10, 2007*

Mr. COSTELLO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to our former colleague, George Sangmeister, who passed away last weekend. George was a stalwart of Illinois politics for over 30 years and served in this body from 1988–1994. He embodied the hard-working decency of the Midwest and I extend my condolences to his family.

George committed a great deal of his life to public service, beginning with his service in the Army during the Korean War. He graduated from Elmhurst College and the John Marshall Law School, becoming a Will County Magistrate in 1961. He later served as the county's District Attorney and was elected to both the Illinois House and Senate. In 1986, he was tabbed by Adlai Stevenson III to run as his Lieutenant Governor. They lost that race, but George went on two years later to win election to Congress.

George had a warm personality and was a results-oriented politician, looking for consensus wherever he could. He was not concerned about grandstanding, but always seeking out a way to bring people together for the greater good. He led the efforts to create the Abraham Lincoln National Cemetery and the Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie, both projects distinct to and emblematic of Illinois.

Madam Speaker, we can all learn from the example of George Sangmeister, and I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring his life and accomplishments.

### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

### HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, October 10, 2007*

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Madam Speaker, on Thursday, October 4, 2007, I was absent from the House due to a family illness and therefore missed rollcall votes 939 through 948.

Had I been present for rollcall 939, H.R. 2740, on the motion to recommit the MEJA Expansion and Enforcement Act of 2007, I would have voted "no."

Had I been present for rollcall 940, H.R. 2740, on passage of the MEJA Expansion and Enforcement Act of 2007, I would have voted "aye."

Had I been present for rollcall 941, H. Res. 704, on ordering the previous question providing for the consideration of H.R. 3246, the

Regional Economic and Infrastructure Development Act, I would have voted "aye."

Had I been present for rollcall 942, H. Res. 704, on agreeing to the resolution providing for the consideration of H.R. 3246, the Regional Economic and Infrastructure Development Act, I would have voted "aye."

Had I been present for rollcall 943, H. Res. 703, on ordering the previous question providing for the consideration of H.R. 3648, Mortgage Forgiveness Debt Relief Act, I would have voted "aye."

Had I been present for rollcall 944, H. Res. 703, on agreeing to the resolution providing for the consideration of H.R. 3648, the Mortgage Forgiveness Debt Relief Act, I would have voted "aye."

Had I been present for rollcall 945, H.R. 3246, on the motion to recommit the Regional Economic and Infrastructure Development Act of 2007, I would have voted "no."

Had I been present for rollcall 946, H.R. 3246, on passage of the Regional Economic and Infrastructure Development Act of 2007, I would have voted "aye."

Had I been present for rollcall 947, H.R. 3648, on the motion to recommit the Mortgage Forgiveness Debt Relief Act, I would have voted "no."

Had I been present for rollcall 948, H.R. 3648, on passage of the Mortgage Forgiveness Debt Relief Act, I would have voted "aye."

### EXPANDING STRATEGIC RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND BRAZIL

SPEECH OF

### HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, October 9, 2007*

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today strong support of my resolution—H. Res. 651—which recognizes the expanding strategic relationship between the United States and Brazil. This resolution also commends Brazil on successfully reducing its dependence on oil by finding alternative ways to satisfy its energy needs and recognizes the importance of the March 9, 2007 United States–Brazil Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on biofuels cooperation.

For years, Brazil has flown below the radar in the United States. We never paid much attention to what was happening in the largest country in South America. But I believe that we are reaching the end of this period of ignorance and neglect and that we, in America, are finally waking up not only to Brazil's importance, but also to how natural this relationship should be.

Brazil occupies almost half of the continent of South America and is the fifth most populous country in the world. Its economy is the eleventh largest in the world, the largest in Latin America, and one of the largest in the developing world. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice has called Brazil "the regional leader and our global partner." These are words we reserve for only a few countries—those where partnership is truly advantageous for both of us.

Brazil is also the right country with which to cooperate on alternative energy sources.

Brazil and the United States are by far the world's largest ethanol producers. In 2006, the two countries together produced 69 percent of ethanol in the world. And Brazil has become a global leader on alternative energy. By the end of 2006, 80 percent of new car sales in Brazil were flex-fuel, meaning they can run on a mixture of ethanol and gasoline.

On March 9th, the U.S. and Brazil signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to promote greater cooperation on ethanol and biofuels in the Western Hemisphere. Our bilateral partnership is establishing both countries as leaders in the energy field in the hemisphere. I am particularly pleased by joint U.S.–Brazilian efforts to provide technical assistance to build biofuels industries in third countries, including the Dominican Republic, Haiti, El Salvador and St. Kitts and Nevis. This resolution commends these efforts and also encourages U.S. and Brazilian officials to quickly move to a second wave of countries to receive similar technical assistance.

Many argue that for too long, the U.S. has focused its agenda in the hemisphere on "trade and drugs" at the exclusion of other elements. The deepening of our energy cooperation with our friends in the hemisphere—particularly Brazil—is helping us to develop a positive agenda that I hope will continue to grow in the coming years.

I am also pleased to announce today that I will be leading a bipartisan congressional delegation to Brazil on November 25th and I encourage my colleagues to join me on this trip.

I want to close by noting that there is a cynical, old adage about Brazil that says, "Brazil is the land of the future, and always will be." Brazil's leadership at home, in the Americas and throughout the world is proving this statement to be false. I truly believe that Brazil's time has come. As Western Hemisphere Subcommittee Chairman, I look forward to continuing to focus intensively on Brazil—a vital partner and friend.

I urge my colleagues to support House Resolution 651.

### CHARLES H. HENDRIX POST OFFICE BUILDING

SPEECH OF

### HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, October 9, 2007*

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of renaming the Cantonment Post Office in Cantonment, FL, the Charles H. Hendrix Post Office. It is fitting that we rename this post office after Mr. Hendrix as he retired from the U.S. Postal Service as Postmaster of the Cantonment Post Office with 37 years of service.

Charles Harold Hendrix was a man of service. He dedicated his life to the Lord, his family, and his community. Born and reared in Molino, FL, where he met his wife of 55 years, Barbara; they had three children: Chuck, Rusty, and Cheryl.

He was a member of Highland Baptist Church, where he served as the church treasurer, chairman of the board of deacons, and as a Sunday school superintendent. Charles Barton, the current Sunday school superintendent, said that Mr. Hendrix "had moral

values that were exceptionally great, and that he was always willing to help everybody any time, any way that he could." This sentiment was not only found around Highland Baptist Church.

Charles Hendrix was a charter member of the Molino Volunteer Fire Department, where he served as fire chief, assistant fire chief, and secretary of the department's board of directors. Former fire chief Harry Nowlin was inspired by Charles: "I've never met a finer gentleman in all my life."

Mr. Hendrix was also a member of the Cantonment Rotary Club for 44 years. He served one term as president and was an active member of the Club Service Committee. He was presented the prestigious Paul Harris Award, and in 2003, he received the club's "Gator Estes Service Above Self Award."

Mr. Hendrix went to be with the Lord last October at the early age of 75. Madam Speaker, I, along with the residents of Northwest Florida, can think of no better way to honor this highly respected, admirable man than to dedicate the Cantonment Post Office in his name.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

#### HON. TIMOTHY V. JOHNSON

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, October 10, 2007*

Mr. JOHNSON of Illinois. Madam Speaker, unfortunately yesterday, October 9, 2007, I was unable to cast my votes on H. Res. 32 and H.R. 400.

Had I been present for rollcall No. 949 on suspending the rules and passing H. Res. 32, denouncing the practices of female genital mutilation, domestic violence, "honor killings," and other gender-based persecutions and expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that participation, protection, recognition, and independence of women is crucial to achieving a just, moral and honorable society, I would have voted "yea."

Had I been present for rollcall No. 950 on suspending the rules and passing H.R. 400, War Profiteering Prevention Act, I would have voted "yea."

#### PAYING TRIBUTE TO DR. GUILLERMO LINARES, PhD

#### HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, October 10, 2007*

Mr. RANGEL. Madam Speaker, today I rise to ask my colleagues to take a moment to honor the outstanding achievements of the 35 million Hispanic Americans in commemoration of Hispanic Heritage Month.

One of those 35 million Hispanic Americans is Dr. Guillermo Linares, whom I am honored to acknowledge for all his wonderful contributions and remarkable leadership in public service. Dr. Linares, who brings a long record of distinguished public service, has blazed an inspiring path so that future generations of Hispanic Americans can grasp the same opportunities to develop into tomorrow's leaders.

Dr. Guillermo Linares has the historic distinction of being the first Dominican elected to

public office in the United States. He served from 1991 to 2001 in the New York City Council, where he advocated for quality education, vital health services, and affordable housing.

For more than 30 years, Dr. Linares has remained committed to improving public education and championing immigrant issues. His advocacy started in Washington Heights, where he worked as a school teacher. Witnessing the need for active involvement, he ran for membership of the local school board and served there for three terms. In the 1980s, Dr. Linares and others were responsible for the building of desperately needed public schools for the growing immigrant community in Washington Heights.

Dr. Linares' work has garnered him city-wide and national respect. In 1998, the Black and Latino Legislative Caucus of the NYC Council elected then-Council Member Linares as its copresident. Dr. Linares was tapped in 1995 to serve in a national capacity as a member of the White House Initiative for Educational Excellence for Hispanic Americans. President William Clinton appointed him in 1999 as chair of this initiative.

He was also a part of a movement in the late 1970s and early 1980s to establish key institutions that continue to serve Dominican and Latino populations. With other activists and leaders, Dr. Linares helped to establish the Community Association of Progressive Dominicans, the Puerto Rican/Latino Education Round Table and the Parents Coalition for Education in New York City. Dr. Linares was instrumental in the founding of the Dominican Studies Institute at City College, the Audubon Partnership for Economic Development and the Center for Latin American and Latino Studies at the CUNY Graduate Center. He also served for six years as a board member of the National Council of "La Raza." He currently is the co-chair of "Encuentro 2000 and Beyond" a national Latino leadership group.

In his current role as Commissioner of the Mayor's Office of Immigrant Affairs for the City of New York, Dr. Linares works to strengthen bridges between city government and immigrant communities. He—who grew up dirt poor in a dirt-floored hut in the Dominican Republic—shares the experiences and aspirations of immigrant New Yorkers. Having left his native Dominican Republic to arrive to the City of New York at age 15 in 1966, knowing not a word of English, drove a taxi for long hours to support his family. At the same time, he pursued a higher education so that he could advance.

Dr. Linares received a Bachelor of Arts and Masters of Science degree from City College and a professional diploma in administration and supervision from Fordham University. He recently achieved his doctorate in education from Teachers College, Columbia University. Dr. Linares' wife, Evelyn, is a dedicated public school principal. They are proud parents of two children, Guillermo Linares Jr. and Mayra Linares, who currently serves as the Democratic District Leader of Part A of the 72nd District of the New York State Assembly. His family has been critical to his accomplishments as a community activist, an elected official and an academic.

At a time when so many question the role and value of immigrants in today's society, it is essential to remember the achievements of remarkable public servants such as Dr. Guillermo Linares. Let us all remember that immi-

grant dreams and values—Hispanic dreams and values—are no different than the dreams and values that we all wish for our families and our Nation.

#### INTRODUCTION OF THE PROMOTION OF HEALTH INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY ACT

#### HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, October 10, 2007*

Ms. ESHOO. Madam Speaker, we live in the Information Age, but health care, one of the most information-intensive segments of our economy remains mired in a pen-and-paper past. We can buy airline tickets online, we can check our bank accounts from anywhere in the world, and we send pictures of new babies and grandchildren to friends and family via e-mail or instant messages. The health care industry, however, remains dangerously disconnected. Patients' medical histories are largely disaggregated among the various physicians who have treated them, and are often inaccessible to a new doctor or even to the patients themselves.

Such an inefficient health care information system creates unnecessary risks and costs. It's time to look at health care in a new way, focusing on overall health and not simply disease. We need to move toward a model of integrated care by providing ways for a patient's physicians to coordinate their care, and promote the modernization of our nation's health care system.

Health information technology (HIT) promises to revolutionize the health care delivery system and have a powerful effect on enhancing patient safety, reducing medical errors, improving the quality of care, and reducing health care costs. The deployment of HIT and the adoption of important patient tools such as electronic health records (EHRs) have been slow and have not kept pace with the advances of technology in nearly every other aspect of our lives.

To accelerate the adoption of HIT and create market conditions and incentives which will encourage investment in this critical technology, I'm introducing today the Promotion of Health Information Technology Act. This legislation builds on the excellent work of Senators KENNEDY and ENZI and will promote HIT in the federal government and throughout the health care sector.

Any meaningful HIT legislation must establish a process for the rapid formulation and implementation of standards to facilitate the exchange of interoperable health data and create incentives to ensure that these technologies are actually adopted. The Promotion of Health Information Technology Act establishes a streamlined process for the adoption of HIT interoperability standards and requires the federal government to abide by the standards it sets.

The legislation establishes a permanent position within HHS with broad responsibility to facilitate the exchange of interoperable health information and coordination of the government's own health IT activities and procurement. It also creates a permanent public-private advisory body to recommend or endorse appropriate HIT interoperability standards with